July 27, 2006

HARMAN STATEMENT AT THE SECOND HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HEARING ON FISA

Says "solution is not to gut FISA and the Fourth Amendment."

WASHINGTON D.C. -- At the second of two open House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence legislative hearings on FISA, Rep. Jane Harman (D-Venice) today made the following statement. The bills under consideration by the committee include the LISTEN Act, authored by Harman and Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), which would ensure that all domestic surveillance of Americans conforms with FISA and the 4th Amendment and requires individual warrants.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding a second legislative hearing on this topic.

Ours is the only Committee in the House briefed on the President's Domestic Surveillance program. That confers on the Members of this Committee a special duty -- to ensure that we legislate and conduct our oversight with great care. Our colleagues and the American people are counting on <u>us</u> to scrutinize not just the President's NSA program but also any proposed changes to the laws that impact our cherished freedoms.

Before us today are three legislative proposals: (1) the LISTEN ACT, which was coauthored by the distinguished Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee Mr. Conyers; (2) the NSA Oversight Act ... and I welcome Congressmen Schiff and Flake, who got this ball rolling in the Judiciary Committee and who deserve credit for building a bi-partisan proposal; and (3) the Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act, offered by Congresswoman Wilson.

Last week's hearing created a strong record of support for the LISTEN ACT. Since then, the number of co-sponsors has increased to 62, including all 9 minority members of this committee, and we have received additional letters of support, including one from former Congressman Bob Barr.